

strapping line is greater than a width of the wordlines; and

connecting the strapping lines to the wordlines by forming at least two channels from each strapping line to individual wordlines.

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on October 18, 2002, and the Advisory Action mailed January 24, 2003.

Claims 1, 5, 8, 15, 19, 26, 30, 37, 42, 45, and 49 are amended, no claims are added, and no claims are cancelled; as a result, claims 1-54 remain pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-54 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tanoi (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,621).

The rejection states that, "Tanoi discloses a strapping line (118 in fig. 16) of lower resistance than the wordlines coupled to a single wordline, wherein the strapping line bypasses a portion of the single wordline."

Applicant respectfully maintains that Tanoi does not show at least two channels connecting the strapping line to a first and second end of a portion of a single wordline. However in the interest of moving this application forward towards allowance, Applicant submits the following arguments that further distinguish the present claims over Tanoi.

Tanoi appears to show in Figures 17 and 18 a first high-resistance line segment 124 and a low resistance line 118 that is coupled through a plug 126 to the first high-resistance line segment 124. However, Tanoi does not show a strapping line of lower resistance than the wordlines coupled to a single wordline wherein the strapping line bypasses a portion of the single wordline, and wherein the strapping line is spaced apart from adjacent conductive structures by a distance greater than a wordline pitch, and wherein **a width of the strapping line is greater than a width of the wordlines.**

In contrast, Applicant's independent claims 1, 5, 8, 15, 19, 26, 30, 37, 42, 45, and 49 as amended each include a strapping line of lower resistance than the wordlines coupled to a single

wordline wherein a width of the strapping line is greater than a width of the wordlines.

Applicant's specification on (Page 8, lines 5-7) teaches that, "the strapping layer pitch chosen is influenced by the width of strapping layers 323 and 341. A wider strapping layer gives better conductivity, and strapping only non-adjacent wordlines allows for a wider strapping layer."

Because the Tanoi reference does not show every element of Applicant's independent claims, a 35 USC § 102(b) rejection is not supported. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested with respect to Applicant's independent claims 1, 5, 8, 15, 19, 26, 30, 37, 42, 45, and 49. Additionally, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested with respect to the remaining claims that depend therefrom as depending on allowable base claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6944 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

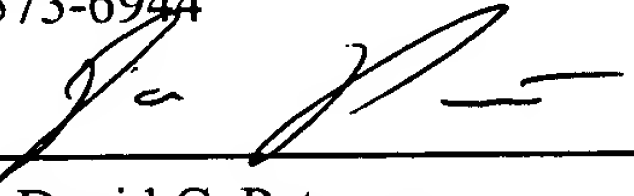
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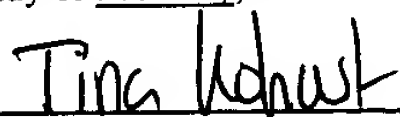
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By


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